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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/599,053	06/21/2000	Rodric C Fan	M-9199US	6523

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[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3662

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	J
	09/599,053	FAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Gregory C. Issing	Art Unit 3662	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 70-129 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 98-129 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 70-97 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 18 February 2003 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>17</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

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1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 70-97, drawn to transmitting location-relevant information determined by a first mobile unit to a second mobile unit via a network, classified in class 455, subclass 456.3.
 - II. Claims 98-129, drawn to an authentication operation using position comparisons, classified in class 340, subclass 686.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as the use of ID matching for the purpose of authenticating a user. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Newly submitted claims 98-129 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the authentication using position matching is distinct from the transmission of location-relevant information from a first mobile unit to a second mobile unit via a network.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 98-129 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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9. Claims 70-97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bunn.

Bunn discloses a method and system for providing location-relevant information of a vehicle to a network and the subsequent transmission to another mobile unit. The system includes: a network of central controller computers 6 interlinked by the Internet 17-20 and a plurality of mobile units 30, each having respective controllers 32 provided with communication means 34, a GPS receiver 40, an on-board diagnostic system monitoring operating conditions, and sensors. Using the various sensors, the mobile units may provide a timely source of geo-located information to the central controller, including information on conditions such as vehicle location, road conditions, weather, accidents, emergencies, traffic flow and points of interest to provide updated information to all customers with access to the central controller. The timely sources of geo-located information provided to the central controller computer is available to anyone having access to the central controller computer (col. 6, lines 10-25). Each of the vehicles thereby meets the scope of the claimed first mobile unit determining location relevant information, be it traffic, operating conditions or maintenance conditions and the subsequent transmission to a network of controllers. Moreover, each user having access to the network meets the scope of the second mobile unit which receives information derived from the first mobile unit. In view of the fact that each of the mobile units is provided with a communication means for bi-directional communication with the central controller computer, the accessing of the information via a query is anticipated.

Applicants argued that the previously-cited references failed to "teach or suggest transmission of information indicating traffic conditions," or were distinguished from the claims by the language "a network transmission to a second mobile unit, wherein the network

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transmission to the second mobile unit is performed based on the location-relevant information received from the first mobile unit," or did "not teach transmitting information indicating the vehicle's operating conditions." Bunn discloses each of the features including a network of computers connected via the Internet, for example, which receives geo-located tagged information from a plurality of mobile devices as well as the distribution of the geo-located tagged information to any user having access to the network of computers. The geo-located tagged information may include on-board diagnostics (maintenance and operating conditions), road conditions (operating conditions), traffic flow (location-relevant traffic information), etc.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yogo discloses a mobile station monitoring system wherein mobile units communicate location-relevant information to a base station or other mobile users; the other mobile users may access the base station for information regarding the position and operating conditions of the mobile units. Xu et al disclose a remote road traffic data collection system wherein vehicles collect and send location-relevant road data to a database in a central controller that accumulates and forecasts traffic data which is accessible by others.

11. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 2/18/03 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory C. Issing whose telephone number is (703)-306-4156. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on (703)-306-4171. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Gregory C. Issing
Gregory C. Issing
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3662

gci
June 2, 2003